

**STATE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
FULL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
DOVER, DELAWARE**

THURSDAY, MAY 12, 2016

The May monthly meeting of the Delaware State Human Relations Commission was held by video-conference the Cannon Building, 861 Silver Lake Boulevard, Conference Room A, Dover, Delaware; and the Carvel Building, 820 N. French Street, 4th Floor Executive Conference Room, Wilmington, Delaware.

Attendance:

Commission Members Present: Chairperson Calvin Christopher, Commissioners Diaz Bonville, Whittona Burrell, Erika Caesar, Chok-Fun Chui, Bernice Edwards, Stephen Elkins, Michael Harpe, Prameela Kaza, Gail Launay-Tarlecki, Nancy Maihoff, Olga Ramirez, Misty Seemans, Walter Smith Jr., and Rosemarie Williams. DAG Zoe Plerhoples.

Commission Members not present: Commissioners Mashoor Awad (excused), Jamaal Bivens (excused), Wallace Dixon (unexcused), Earnest Gulab (excused), Rose Mary Hendrix (excused), Doug James (excused), Janet Maull-Martin (excused), Lorenzo Murdaugh (unexcused) Roy Sudler Jr. (unexcused) and Robert Watson Jr.

Staff from Division of Human Relations Office: Romona Fullman, Vincent Petroff, and Kelly Fox.

Members of the public present: Ervin Schleifer

I Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Christopher at 7: p.m., followed by a period of silent meditation.

II Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the April SHRC meeting were submitted. A motion was made to accept the minutes by Commissioner Kaza. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Harpe. A vote was taken, minutes approved with changes.

III Members of the Public Present

None

IV Chair's Report

<i>Topic / Discussion</i>	<i>Actions to be Taken</i>	<i>Leaders</i>	<i>Due Date</i>
<u>Fair Housing Policy Conference</u> – Chair Christopher thanked Director Fullman and her staff for putting together the policy conference. He discussed some of the topics that were covered during the conference.			
<u>Commissioner Training</u> – Chair Christopher reported that a video of the panel hearing training led by DAGs Paige Schmitter and Zoe Plerhoples will be available soon as a training tool. Chair Christopher reminded Commissioners that if they have any training requests to communicate that request to the Division.	Communicate training requests to the Division.	All Commissioners	Ongoing
<u>Commission Vacancies</u> – deferred to Community Response Committee report.			
<u>Committee Strategic Actions 2016</u> – Chair Christopher asked Chairs of the Sub-Committees to identify initiatives to work on for 2016.			
<u>Joint Sunset Committee Review</u> - Chair Christopher reiterated that the Joint Sunset Committee will be reviewing the State Human Relations Commission. The purpose of this review is to determine if the Commission is fulfilling the duties under the governing statutes. Chair Christopher requested the Commissioners be available to respond to requests	Be prepared to respond to requests from the Division. Review documentation to determine if the prior recommendations are	All Commissioners Director Fullman	Ongoing Undefined

from the Division. Commissioner Ramirez inquired if the report from the prior Sunset Review was available.	available.		
<u>Commissioner Community Outreach</u> – Chair Christopher reported the turn out (Commissioners and public) for the fair housing month community chats was lower than expected. Commissioners were reminded of their responsibility to promote and participate in Division sponsored community outreach events.	Advertise and participate in Community Outreach events to the public.	All Commissioners	Ongoing
<u>Delaware Racial Justice Collaborative</u> – Chair Christopher reported that one of this group’s focuses is institutional racism. He has recently agreed to co-chair the group.			

V Director’s Report

<i>Topic / Discussion</i>	<i>Actions to be Taken</i>	<i>Leaders</i>	<i>Due Date</i>
Director Fullman recognized Commissioner Seemans for her service to the Commission. Tonight is her last meeting as a member of the SHRC.			
Director Fullman thanked Vincent Petroff, Claudia Sosa-Ducote, Natalie Fountain and Ines Hungria for developing and delivering Equal Accommodations training for all Division of Motor Vehicles employees. This training is a result of a conciliation agreement.			
Director Fullman shared the schedule of the Sunset review process in her printed Director’s Report.			
Commissioner Community Engagement: Director	Take part in the Film and	All Commissioners	Ongoing

<p>Fullman encouraged Commissioners to take part in the Film and Discussion series – the schedule is on the written report and the DHR website.</p> <p>A goal of the Division is to provide Commissioners the information, tools and resources for outreach and education on fair housing and equal accommodations laws.</p> <p>Commissioners were reminded that they are welcomed and encouraged to attend all workshops and training events scheduled by the Division.</p>	<p>Discussion series</p> <p>Prepare to conduct Fair Housing 101 and Equal Accommodations 101 trainings in their communities.</p>	All Commissioners	Ongoing
<p>Director Fullman discussed and distributed copies of 2 current bills, the DHR/SHRC –SS1 for SB 134 Homeless Individuals’ Bill of Rights and Senate Bill 179 w/SA 3 Source of Income Discrimination. Links to the bills are included in written Director’s report.</p>	<p>Send Director’s report electronically</p> <p>Review and respond to the proposed legislation</p>	<p>Director Fullman</p> <p>All Commissioners</p>	<p>Undefined</p> <p>Undefined</p>
<p>First State Community Action Agency is sponsoring an Advocacy workshop on June 1st. Commissioner Edwards spoke on the workshop and encouraged attendance</p>			

VI Committee Reports

<i>Topic / Discussion</i>	<i>Actions to be Taken</i>	<i>Leader</i>	<i>Due Date</i>
<u>Public Awareness Committee (PAW)</u> – No report.			
<u>Legislative Committee (LEG)</u> – No report.			
<u>Community Response Committee (CRC)</u> – Commissioner Maihoff reported the Legislative Committee was previously assigned the responsibility			

<p>of reviewing the Commissions By-Laws; specifically relating to attendance. She asked if there has been any progress on this. Commissioner Caesar advised there has not; but the next time the Committee meets it is one of the topics on their agenda.</p> <p>Commissioner Maihoff reported that the Committee interviewed 3 candidates during their committee meeting. Applications will be forwarded to the Governor's office. She also advised there are additional vacancies they are looking to fill. Commissioner Maihoff asked that Commissioners continue to recommend individuals to apply to become a Commissioner.</p> <p>Chair Christopher inquired if the candidates that were interviewed this evening came directly to the Commission or were they referred by the Governor's office. Commissioner Maihoff advised that 2 of the candidates were referred by the Governor's office and the other had submitted their application and it was not received. Commissioner Maihoff indicated the application was brought to the meeting this evening. She will be forwarding it to the Governor's office.</p> <p>Commissioner Maihoff asked Chair Christopher for the copy of the prior mentoring manual.</p>	<p>Provide recommendations for new Commissioners</p> <p>Forward the applications from this evening to the Governor's office.</p> <p>Forward prior mentoring manual to Commissioner Maihoff</p>	<p>All Commissioners</p> <p>Commissioner Maihoff</p> <p>Chair Christopher</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Undefined</p> <p>Undefined</p>
<p><u>Governor's Council on Equal Employment Opportunity Committee (GCEEO)</u> – Commissioner Launay-Tarlecki reported no meeting was held this month. The GCEEO's EEO Summit is next week on May 19th at Delaware State University.</p>			

VII Old Business

<i>Topic / Discussion</i>	<i>Actions to be Taken</i>	<i>Leader</i>	<i>Due Date</i>
Commissioner Chui reported both she and Commissioner Burrell attended the Islamic Societies' open house the weekend of April 15 th . Both were pleased with the open house and the information they received at the open house.			

VIII New Business

<i>Topic / Discussion</i>	<i>Actions to be Taken</i>	<i>Leader</i>	<i>Due Date</i>
None.			

IX Good News

<i>Topic / Discussion</i>	<i>Actions to be Taken</i>	<i>Leader</i>	<i>Due Date</i>
<p>Commissioner Elkins shared that 2 weeks ago he rang the bell to celebrate his last chemotherapy treatment. He thanked everyone for their thoughts and prayers.</p> <p>Commissioner Seemans thanked all Commissioners. She has enjoyed working with everyone on the Commission and hopes to remain in touch.</p> <p>Commissioner Burrell's shared that her 3 grandchildren are graduating. One from elementary school to middle school, one from middle school to high school and one from high school to college.</p> <p>Commissioner Ramirez shared her granddaughter is graduating high school. She will not be able to attend the Commission meeting in June.</p> <p>Commissioner Harpe shared that his son is graduating high school.</p> <p>Director Fullman shared that her daughter is</p>			

<p>graduating from law school.</p> <p>Director Fullman shared that Kelly Fox, from the Division, will be getting married this month.</p> <p>Chair Christopher thanked Commissioner Seemans for all she has done while on the Commission and the support she has provided to him.</p> <p>Commissioner Diaz shared that his 10 year old grandson has been invited by Senator Lopez to lead the Senate in the Pledge of Allegiance.</p>			
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XI Meeting Adjourned

The Commission meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:05 p.m. by Chair Christopher.